THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): The Justice Mukherjee Commission has not yet submitted its report. Its term has been extended upto 14.11.2003.

Identity Cards to citizens

1105. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1216 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001 and state:

(a) the details of the scheme finalized target set and progress made on the preparation of an inventory of citizens as well as issuing identity cards to the citizens and non-citizens resident in the country; and

(b) the present status of implementation of issuing Work Permit to the non-citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) Since creating a database of the entire population of the country is a gigantic task, which requires in-depth examination of all the relevant issues, it has been decided by the Government to undertake a Pilot Project on an experimental basis. The Pilot Project has since been initiated in April, 2003 covering a few sub-districts in the selected districts of 13 States and Union Territories. The main scheme will be launched after taking into account experience and lessons drawn from the Pilot Project.

(b) The Group of Ministers, in their Report on 'Reforming the National Security System', has recommended introduction of a 'Work Permit for Foreigners' scheme as a measures to curb illegal migration, to begin with for Bangladesh and Myanmar nationals; Discussions have been held with Government of Bangladesh in this regard. However, a scheme is yet to be finalized.

Purulia arms-drop case

1106. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to free Peter Bleach, the key accused in Purulia arms drop case;